

POINTS:

NEW AMERICANS IN THE GREATLAKES STATE:

- **The Political and Economic Power of Immigrants, Latinos, and Asians in Michigan**
- Immigrants, Latinos, Asians, and Arab Americans account for large and growing shares of the economy and the electorate in Michigan.
- Immigrants (the foreign-born) make up 5.8% of the state's population, and nearly half of them are naturalized U.S. citizens who are eligible to vote.
- "New Americans"—immigrants and the children of immigrants—account 5.2% of all registered voters in the state.
- Immigrants are not only integral to the state's economy as workers, but also account for billions of dollars in tax revenue and consumer purchasing power.
- **Moreover, Latinos and Asians (both foreign-born and native-born) wield \$17.5 billion in consumer purchasing power, and the businesses they own had sales and receipts of \$8.3 billion and employed more than 60,000 people at last count.**
- Michigan is also home to the largest proportion of Arab Americans in the country, who generate an estimated \$544 million in state tax revenue each year.
- At a time of economic recession, Michigan can ill-afford to alienate such an important component of its labor force, tax base, and business community.
- Immigrants and their children are growing shares of Michigan's population and electorate.

- **The foreign-born share** of Michigan's population rose from 3.8% in 1990, to 5.3% in 2000, to 5.8% in 2008, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Michigan was home to 582,742 immigrants in 2008, which is nearly the total population of Boston, Massachusetts.
- **49.3% of immigrants (or 287,481 people) in Michigan were naturalized U.S. citizens in 2008**—meaning that they are eligible to vote.
- **5.2% (or 273,323) of all registered voters** in Michigan are “New Americans”—naturalized citizens or the U.S.-born children of immigrants who were raised during the current era of immigration from Latin America and Asia which began in 1965—according to an analysis of 2006 Census Bureau data by Rob Paral & Associates.
- **6.4% of Michiganians are Latino or Asian—and they vote.**
- The **Latino share of Michigan's population** grew from 2.2% in 1990, to 3.3% in 2000, to 4.1% (or 410,140 people) in 2008. The Asian share of the population grew from 1.1% in 1990, to 1.8% in 2000, to 2.3% (or 230,079 people) in 2008, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.
- **Latinos comprised 1.4% (or 70,000) of Michigan voters in the 2008 elections, and Asians 1.1% (or 53,000)**, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

ABOVE Information from the Immigration Policy Center: American Immigration Council

- Immigrants evince a strong work ethic, and the children of immigrants tend to assimilate in terms of language acquisition and educational

attainment. For example, although 72% of first-generation Latino immigrants use Spanish as their predominant language, only 7% of the second generations are Spanish-Dominant.

- Immigrants improve the solvency of pay-as you go entitlement programs such as Social Security and Medicare.
- The long-run impact of immigration on public budgets is likely to be positive. Projections of future taxes and government spending are uncertain, but careful study published by the National Research Council estimated that immigrants and their descendants would contribute about \$100,000 more in taxes that they would receive in public services.
- Immigrants increase trade to their respective homelands. America is a national of immigrants and much of its success is credited to its immigrant population striving to attain the American Dream While maintaining connections.
- A 2006 study by the Urban Institute found that immigrant households in the Washington DC area paid 9.8 Billion or 17.7 percent of total taxes paid by the metropolitan area resident's in 2006. In 1999-2000 (\$55.2 billion) was paid virtually the same as their share of the total population 17.4 percent. About 72 percent to these tax payments went to the federal government.
- Immigrants have lower crime rates than natives. Among men aged 18-40, immigrants are much less likely to be incarcerated than natives.